

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 07604 140441Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 140354Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6957

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

S E C R E T SEOUL 7604

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EMES PARM MNUC CA KS

SUBJECT: CANADIAN NUCLEAR REACTOR PROGRAM IN KOREA

REF: SEOUL 7328

1. DURING 13 NOVEMBER CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICER, CANADIAN FIRST SECRETARY GORDON LONGMUIR STATED THAT CANADIAN CABINET STILL FOCUSING ON QUESTION OF SALE OF NUCLEAR REACTORS TO KOREA, WITH OUTCOME OF DELIBERATIONS VERY MUCH IN DOUBT. NEGOTIATIONS FOR PURCHASE OF CANDU POWER RREACTOR ARE IN FINAL STAGES AND KOREANS HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PURCHASING CANADIAN RESEARCH REACTOR.

2. LONGMUIR SAID HE FELT IT UNLIKELY NOW THAT CANADA WILL SELL RESEARCH REACTORS TO KOREA OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY DUE RISK PLUTONIUM DIVERSION. HE CITED IRAN, RUMANIA, ARGENTIINA AND DENMARK AS OTHER COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN PROCURING CANADIAN POWER AND/OR RESEARCH REACTORS.

3. LONGMUIR STATED THAT ON 21 AUGUST THE KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD AGREED TO SIGN A SAFEGUARD PROTOCOL WHICH WOULD COVER NOT ONLY THE CANDU POWER REACTOR ITSELF BUT WASTE PRODUCTS EMANATING THEREFROM, PREVENTING DEVERSION TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS USE. LONGMUIR STATED THAT

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THE CABINET WAS CONSIDERING THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

A. TO PULL OUT FROM THE SALE.

B. TO GO AHEAD AS CURRENTLY NEGOTIATED.

C. TO INSIST ON INCREASED IAEA INSPECTIONS.

D. TO INSIST ON REPATRIATION TO CANADA OF ALL
NUCLEAR WASTE PRODUCTS FOR DISPOSAL.

E. TO PRESS THE ROK FOR RATIFICATION OF THE NPT.

4. LONGMUIR STATED THAT OTTAWA WAS PRETTY WELL CONVINCED
OF ROK INTEREST IN EXPLORING FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPING
NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY AND THAT IN LIGHT OF THIS THE
QUESTION OF REACTOR SALES TO KOREA IS NOW VERY MUCH IN
DOUBT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALES, RESEARCH, NUCLEAR REACTORS, CANDU REACTOR SYSTEM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SEOUL07604
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740328-0189
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741143/aaaabkfe.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: SEOUL 7328
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <24 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANADIAN NUCLEAR REACTOR PROGRAM IN KOREA
TAGS: EMES, PARM, MNUC, CA, KS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005